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CHATTERIS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended

31st December 1955



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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To the Chairman and Members of CHATTERIS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report upon the vital statistics and sanitary work of your District for the year ending 31st December 1955.

VITAL STATISTICS

ESTIMATED POPULATION - mid 1955 - 5590.

BIRTH RATE. The birth rate per thousand of the population showed a slight increase, being 13.24 in 1954 and 14.49 in 1955.

There were five still births during 1955.

GENERAL DEATH RATE. The death rate for 1955 was 9.10 per thousand of the population compared with 10.375 in 1954. The total number of deaths in the Urban District in 1955 was 51, in 1954 58. For comparison I have set out below Death rates as previously reported.

| | | | | | |
|------|--------|-----|----------|----|------------|
| 1937 | 12.35 | per | thousand | of | population |
| 1938 | 9.94 | " | " | " | " |
| 1939 | 11.10 | " | " | " | " |
| 1945 | 13.99 | " | " | " | " |
| 1946 | 13.17 | " | " | " | " |
| 1947 | 14.41 | " | " | " | " |
| 1948 | 11.89 | " | " | " | " |
| 1950 | 9.45 | " | " | " | " |
| 1951 | 8.18 | " | " | " | " |
| 1952 | 6.87 | " | " | " | " |
| 1953 | 11.165 | " | " | " | " |
| 1954 | 10.375 | " | " | " | " |

NATURAL INCREASE OF THE POPULATION The number of births in excess of deaths in 1955 was 30, in 1954 it was 16.

INFANT MORTALITY The death rate of infants under one year of age per thousand live births was 12.47 compared with 13.51 in 1954. The total number of deaths was 1 in 1955, 2 in 1954 and 3 in 1953.

HEALTH SERVICES AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IN THE AREA.

Staff: One part-time Medical Officer
One full time Sanitary Inspector

A District Midwife is appointed and a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held weekly. An ante-natal clinic is organised by local medical practitioners. The arrangements generally for care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children are adequate. The health visiting service is working satisfactorily.

ILLNESS - CARE AND AFTER CARE. Vaccination and diphtheria immunisation services are available. The ambulance service is very good and the domestic help service satisfactory. Pathological investigations are carried out at the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Hospital treatment

is available at Daddington Hospital, Addenbrooke's Hospital and Peterborough Memorial Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY Wisbech & District Water Board are the Statutory Authority and a piped main supply from Marham, Norfolk, is provided to 1446 houses directly, whilst 306 houses are only supplied by standpipes. The remaining houses in the outlying rural area have no piped supply. The houses which are only supplied by standpipes are mainly in poor structural condition and provide some guide as to the possible size of any slum clearance scheme which may be envisaged.

It is essential not only to continue to attract workers to the outlying fen area but also to provide a satisfactory standard of health and amenity that piped mains supply should be afforded to the outlying districts of the area as soon as possible.

PUBLIC CLEANSING House refuse is cleared by contract weekly. There is room for improvement in the methods of collection and the equipment available. A critical labour shortage hampers the improvement of these services but steps to improve the service should be taken as opportunity is afforded.

The labour shortage hampers work at the Refuse Dump but the situation here is generally becoming more satisfactory.

RIVERS AND STREAMS There are no natural rivers or streams within the Urban Area. The town is situated on a layer of Kimmeridge clay thrown up and forming high land above the fen. The rainfall in the area has always gravitated on the east and west sides into the low lying fens. This outfall is intercepted by the artificial cuts and "rivers" made some three hundred years ago when the fens were reclaimed.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION This is entirely on the water carriage system in the urban area.

SCHOOLS The schools are all supplied with piped water and the general sanitary conditions satisfactory.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,
Your obedient Servant,

A.S. Burton

Medical Officer of Health.



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Estimated population mid 1955.....5590

Extracts from Vital Statistics

| | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Live births (legitimate) | 28 | 49 | 77 |
| " " (illegitimate) | - | 4 | 4 |
| Still " (legitimate) | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| " " (illegitimate) | - | 1 | 1 |
| Deaths of infants under 1 year of age (legitimate) | 1 | - | 1 |
| Birth rate per 1000 population | | 14.49 | |
| Death " " " " | | 9.10 | |
| Death rate of all infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births | | 12.47 | |

Deaths

The chief causes of death were:-

| | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| " " lung | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| " " breast | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Diabetes | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Other heart disease | 9 | 11 | 20 |
| Other circulatory disease | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Bronchitis | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Congenital malformations | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| All other accidents | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Suicide | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | 28 | 23 | 51 |

Infectious Diseases

| | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Chicken Pox | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Scarlet Fever | 12 | 10 | 22 |
| Measles | 33 | 15 | 48 |
| Whooping Cough | 12 | 14 | 26 |
| Infective Hepatitis | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Poliomyelitis | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | 61 | 42 | 103 |

MEAT INSPECTION.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

| | Cattle excluding Cows. | Cows. | Calves | Sheep & Lambs | Pigs. |
|--|------------------------------|-------|--------|------------------|-------|
| Number killed (if known) | 111 | - | - | 264 | 1262 |
| Number inspected. | 111 | - | - | 264 | 1262 |
| <u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u> | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. | 2 | - | - | 18 | 14 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis. | 1.8 | - | - | 6.8 | 1.1 |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u> | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned. | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. | 10 | - | - | - | 20 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis. | 9.8 | - | - | - | 1.8 |

NOTE:- No Horses were inspected, and no cases of cysticercosis occurred.

